

S/N 08/953,154

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Keith A. Kozak et al.

Examiner: Jagdish Patel

Serial No.: 08/953,154

Group Art Unit: 2835

Filed: October 17, 1997

Docket: 450.154US

Title: MODULAR COMPUTER DEVICE AND COMPUTER KEYBOARD OR
MODULAR DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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5/18/01

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's Representatives in the telephonic interview conducted on May 7, 2001, in which the Restriction Requirement mailed April 9, 2001 was discussed. During the interview, it was noted that the groupings presented in the Restriction Requirement did not include all of the pending claims. It is Applicant's understanding from the interview that Group I includes claims 1-11, 13-18 and 22-23. If Applicant's understanding of the claims to be included in Group I is incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and a new Restriction Requirement be issued that provides groups that include all of the pending claims.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects with traverse the claims of Group I as described above. The Restriction Requirement is traversed on the basis that a search and examination of all the claims can be made without serious burden. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it arguably may include claims to distinct or independent inventions. M.P.E.P. § 803. The two groups of claims are related in that they both describe systems and devices providing key input to a computer system and both groups involve dockable devices. Thus, the searches for both will be similar. Due to the relatedness of the subject matter of the claims of group I with the claims of group II, Applicant submits that the search and examination of both groups of claims can be made without serious burden.

Further evidence that the search and examination of the claims can be made without serious burden is the fact that the claims have already been searched and examined on the merits at least once and have been the subject of four Office Actions.

For the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

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Respectfully submitted,

KEITH A. KOZAK ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date May 9, 2001 By Rodney L. Lacy
Rodney L. Lacy
Reg. No. 41,136

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 9th day of May, 2001.

Name Candis B. Buending

Signature Candis Buending